

The Ambassador

News and Views From the Hill



A Newsletter From The First Baptist Church of Norwich
239 West Main Street, Norwich, CT 06360 Phone: 860-889-0369

June 2005

The Hills of Norwich Were Alive With The Sound of Music

Music filled the sanctuary of the Central Baptist Church and wafted its way out the doors and over the rolling hills of Norwich on Thursday, May 19 as the Eastern Baptist Touring Choir made a stop in town. This thirty-two member ensemble sang an assortment of sacred songs along with some contemporary and popular religious music.

We partnered with our sister Church to bring the group to Norwich. We housed some of the students and hosted the reception following the concert.

Dr. David Manes, the director of the group, fondly remembered his previous visits to Norwich. He also gave a brief history of the Music program at Eastern College and shared how it has grown over the years.



The Eastern Choir was sensational and their music was inspiring.

The gospel choir, named Turning Point, also shared some of their repertoire. In September we will be hosting this smaller group of 14 at our Church on Sunday, September 18 during morning worship and then again for a concert at 4:00 p.m. as part of the SUNL Fall Inspirational meeting.

We are very excited that we will have the group back for a third time this fall. In August we will begin looking for host families to house the students when they arrive.

Eastern University is located just outside of Philadelphia, PA. It was originally founded as part of Eastern Baptist Theological School and morphed into a

fully accredited four year college, separate from the Seminary. A few years ago it became a full fledged University offering multiple degrees.

Some of us are familiar with Eastern because our own Timothy Rezendes went there and graduated with his Bachelors Degree this May.

Worship

Come and worship!



June 5, 2005

Communion Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

Sermon: *"Jesus Preferred Irregulars"*

June 12, 2005

Scripture: Psalm 116:1-19

Sermon: *"Did I Forget To Tell You..."*

Special: Commissioning of Pastor Lord for his Sabbatical Study Leave

June 19, 2005

Father's Day

Recognition of our Graduates

Guest Preacher - John Fear

Scripture: II Peter 3:9

Sermon: *"Like Father, Like Son"*

June 26, 2005

Guest Preacher- Rev. Burt Crooks

Scripture: Luke 13:22-30

Sermon: *"This is the Moment"*



Pastor Updike's sermon illustrations were creative, if somewhat oblique.

Mark and Bonnie Ambruso Celebrate the Joy of Family

On Pentecost Sunday, May 15, we not only celebrated the birth of the Church, we also celebrated the joy of family with a "family dedication service for the Ambruso family.

William Kirk Ambruso was born on December 26, 2004. He is the first child for Mark and Bonnie Ambruso and he has already stolen their hearts.



In the family dedication service the parents acknowledge their child as a gift from God and promise to raise him or her in a Christian home so that the child can come to know the love and grace of our Savior as they grow up.

The congregation also makes the promise that they will assist the

family by being supportive, offering prayer and providing a safe and loving place for the family to come and worship.

It was such a joy to have the Ambruso family, their parents, friends and family members with us as they marked this special day.

Did you miss the Pastor's Sermon?

Read it online at www.fbcnorwich.org

Several of the recent sermons are now online at our web site. They may not contain the wholer message because Dr. Lord often jumps off the manuscript as the Spirit leads him, but they do contain the gist of the message and several illustrations.

If you cannot be present, it is the next best thing.



A LCD Projector and projection screen that could be used for special worship services.

A CD Player that could be connected through our sound system.

Looking Back at May

Mother-Daughter Banquet Helps Us Say "Thank You" To The Women In Our Lives



Bob Booth serves his daughter Stephanie.

The ladies came dressed and ready to be pampered. The men arrived early and were on their best behavior. As the festivities began, eighty five women and were treated to a delicious turkey dinner, apple crumb dessert and a dance performance by several talented dancers from Luis Pabon Dance Arts Center.

Special thanks to Melinda Maynard, Kristin Dedptulski, Zelda Earle, Sue Vanase and George Rezendes who organized the event.

If you would like to see these pictures in color along with a few additional pictures, check out our church web site on the web at www.fbcnorwich.org.



Curt Brockway does the honors for Brianne.



Ericka Lusk danced to "My Funny Valentine."



There were no complaints from Harry's table.



Rachel Lord, Skye Lessa and Sarah Turcotte offered a trio.



Oliver Bray and George Rezendes get ready to serve.

Our Sunday School

Children's Day Marks The End of Over 160

Every Spring we celebrate the end of another year of Sunday School with our Children's Day Service. We let the kids take center stage and share with us some of the things they learned throughout the year.

This year our theme was "God in Nature" and many of the songs, skits and scripture readings reminded us of

how awesome God is and how everything He created reflects His beauty and glory.

For many of the children this is their first time on stage and it is an intimidating experience. Thankfully, we have such a wonderful congregation that encourages and support the youth and it shows.



Lori Lord, Sunday School Superintendant, and George Rezendes made sure everything ran on Schedule during the service, just as they did all year long.



Rosie helps the kids line up in place.



Sarah Lord, our lone High School regular, sang "Morning Has Broken."



Rosie Main's Nursery Class had help from a few of the moms. The kids held up pictures of the creation story as Brian Goldin read the scriptures.



Gabriel Villa wasn't sure he liked being up front, but having mom nearby sure helped.

Our Sunday School

Years of Christian Education at First Baptist



The kids sang "If I Were A Butterfly."



Kyle Mehlinger, Bethany Stone and Chelsey Calkins shared stories about God in their lives.



Charmaine Velez, Rachel Lord, Jennifer Dart and Jared LaFlamme did a "Creation Rap."



Outstanding Attendance Awards went to 28 people this year. Our goal is to have even more next year when we start up again in September.



Someone noted that our kids took a page from "American Idol" and went right up to the microphone and began singing when the music started. Above Joshua Laflamme, Brianne Jones, Nicholas Mehlinger, Hollie Adams, Nathan Jones, Jacob Kreger and Brooke Morse sing how "God Made It All."

Our Sunday School Teachers

Rosie Main
June Deptulski
Kristin Deptulski
Zelda Earle
Joanne Clubine
Brian Goldin
Jacquie Jones
Cal Lord
Curt Brockway

Assistants, Subs & Helpers

George Rezendes
Cynthia Strouse

Officers

Superintendent	Lori Lord
Asst Superintendent	Sandy Stone
Sec/Treas	Wendy Dart

Sabbatical News

This summer our Pastor will celebrate his 20th Anniversary at the Church.

As part of our recognition for his faithful service to our congregation we are granting him a sabbatical study leave of 8 weeks. Below you will find answers to many of the questions that have been raised recently at church concerning the sabbatical. On the next two pages of the newsletter you will also find brief biographies of our guest preachers this summer.



We have been blessed with stable leadership at First Baptist. Adele Cofer has been with us for twenty five years as our Music director and Cal Lord has served as our Pastor for twenty years.

What is a sabbatical?

The word *sabbatical* has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath keeping is setting aside time for God.

Sabbatical leave is a time for our pastor to shift gears in order to rest, disengage, study, reflect, and travel in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. (It is not a time for routine work, mid-career assessment, job search, retirement planning, or terminal leave.)

Sabbatical is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons, and people in need. It is a time for Cal to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen his relationship with God, himself, and his family - a season of spiritual growth. This special time will also be a season of growth for the entire congregation.

Do other clergy go on sabbatical?

There is a growing trend to recapture the sabbatical leave as a part of clergy health across the nation and across denominational lines. Studies have shown that healthy pastors and growing congregations allow time for spiritual renewal for congregational leaders. Just as Jesus, the Good Shepherd, took time away to pray

and be with God, our shepherds need to be more intentional too. ABCUSA is now encouraging all our sister churches to offer Sabbatical study leaves after a pastor has been in place for seven years.

How long will Pastor Lord be gone?

The pastor will be Commissioned for his Sabbatical Study on June 12, at which time his Leave will officially begin. He is scheduled to return to our church on August 14. There is a chance that he will be away for two more weeks though. His daughter, Sarah, is a contestant in the Outstanding Connecticut Teen Pageant. If she wins, he will accompany her to Florida and be away on vacation time. Either way, He will be back for good on August 24

What will Pastor Lord be doing on his sabbatical?

Pastor Lord will be attending three major conferences during his leave. The first conference will be in New York City. Sponsored by Integrity Music, the conference will focus on “Worship that Transforms” and feature Dr. Jack Hayford, Pastor of Church on the Way in Van Nuys, CA.

Our Pastor will then travel to Chicago for a “Worship & Arts” Conference at Willow Creek Community Church. Willow

Creek is known for its worship services that use drama and technology to reach out to those who have never been in church before.

The third conference will be in Denver, Colorado as part of the ABCUSA Biennial events. He will be meeting with Brad Bergland, a pastor and author of the book, Reinventing Sunday. Brad will be leading and talking about the latest trends in worship called “Emerging worship.”

Pastor Lord will also use this time to compile his weekly epistles into a book format that can be published and has signed a contract to write a dozen sermons for CSS Publishing.

Finally, Pastor Lord will be using this break from the busy life of the pastorate to establish some personal devotional habits. He will be praying for all of us while he is away as part of his commitment to daily prayer and Bible Study during the sabbatical leave. He hopes to develop some prayer and devotional habits that will “stick” once he returns in the fall. He will also do some journaling as a way to reflect upon his walk with God and to discern God’s will for him and our church for his next “five year” mission.

Who will cover Pastor Lord’s church responsibilities during his absence?

Right now a team is being assembled to handle the day to day stuff at church. Our Administrative Assistant, Sandy Callender, will be the point person. You can call the church office (889-0369) for information and to get answers to most of your questions. Mary Brockway, Gwyn Green and Buffy McFalls will be working with her to handle scheduling of events, bulletin announcements, and any other technical questions concerning the day to day stuff.

Who will I call to plan a special service?

The church office will be open during its usual hours Monday through Thursday from 9:00 - noon. Sandy will be in contact with Oliver Bray and the Deacons to discuss, “Infant dedications, weddings, funerals and other special services to be

Sabbatical News

held at the church. Please be advised that if the special service can wait until September, Pastor Lord would love to be a part of it.

Who do I contact if I have information for the church bulletin or for an activity or event scheduled at the church this summer?

Call the church office (889-0369) and talk to Sandy, our Administrative Assistant. Office hours will be Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Who do I contact about Youth Group Activities or Camp Wightman sessions?

You can call Kay Lautzenheiser (535-1395.) Kay has several activities planned for the kids this summer. She is also our point person for Camp Wightman registrations and scholarships.

Who will conduct worship at Church?

Curt Brockway, George Rezendes, George Strouse and Bob Walker have agreed to serve as worship assistants this summer. They will be working with the guest preachers to lead worship. The Sabbatical committee has secured the following individuals to preach from our pulpit this summer. We hope you will take this opportunity to hear God speak to us through different voices this summer.

June 19 - John Fear
July 17 - Jim Bober
June 26 - Burt Crooks
July 24 - Vaughn Foster
July 3 - Burt Crooks
July 31 - Earl Heinrichon
July 10 - Vaughn Foster
August 7 - Earl Heinrichon

A short biography on each of the preachers can be found on the following pages and on our new church web site at www.fbcnorwich.org.

Who should I contact for special prayer requests?

You may contact our office to have names placed on the weekly prayer list. If you would like a visit or if there is a family or personal crisis, call Oliver Bray at 887-9481 or on his cell phone at 334-7195. Oliver will arrange a visit or put you in contact with one of Pastor Lord's colleagues who have agreed to offer pastoral care in his absence.

Who should I contact if there is a problem with the church building or grounds?

George Rezendes (889-8372) and Brian Goldin (984-3598) can be reached to handle all problems concerning the church itself.

Who will pay for the sabbatical?

The 2005 church budget makes allowances for our guest preachers. Pastor Lord will be using money budget for Continuing Education and Convention Expenses to pay for the conference registrations and travel expenses. He will be getting his regular pay to cover his family expenses while he is on leave.

Will Pastor Lord be in contact with First Baptist during his sabbatical?

An important part of a sabbatical is to make a complete break from things. The only people who will be in direct contact with him while he is away will be his family. In the unlikely event that some extraordinary news absolutely must be communi-

cated, Oliver Bray will be the liaison to Pastor Lord.

Please do not engage Pastor Lord in conversations about the church if you see him during his sabbatical. It may seem rude to ask this of the church family, but it is important for Pastor Lord to learn to leave some things in God's hands. None-the-less, he will be praying for all of us.

Feel free to ask him about his experiences, his family or the Detroit Tigers.

What if a question/concern arises while Cal is gone?

The sabbatical planning committee will serve as a "clearinghouse" for questions and concerns. Ultimately, the Boards of Deacons and Trustees will take care of any major concerns that arise during Pastor Lord's sabbatical.

How will we get "reacquainted" when Cal returns?

On Sunday, August 28 our service will include a brief "welcome back" celebration. In addition, we will find some time at our September Congregational Meeting to share our experiences (both the Pastor's and the church's) as well as beginning a process of evaluation and long-term visioning process for the church. A retreat may be in the works for all interested persons as we begin to discern together what God is calling us to be/do as a congregation.



**Worship moves to 9:30 a.m.
on Sunday July 3rd.
It Continues through Labor Day**

Sabbatical News

Come Meet Five Guest Ministers

June 19, 2005 @ 10:30 a.m.

John Fear was born and raised in Norwich. His grandfather, Walter Schoepfer, was the pastor at First Baptist Church from 1957 – 1967, a time when the church was alive and filled with activity. John was born during that time and he came here as a boy with his parents and three brothers. He and his grandparents were very close and John developed a love for the Lord.

After High School, John enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served for six years. Upon his discharge, he settled in



Norwich and took a position with Travelers Insurance in Hartford. For the last sixteen years he has served them and today he is the National Director of Agency Development. In his spare time he enjoys bicycling, basketball and camping.

John has always been guided by his faith and as a young man he got involved with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. An avid student of the Bible, he soon was recognized for his gifts and served in many leadership positions over the years. A gifted speaker and enthusiastic disciple, we are pleased to have John with us on Father's Day.

"For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile all things to himself... He has now reconciled you in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach- if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard..." Col 1: 19

July 31 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.

August 7, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.

Earl Henrichon was born in Cambridge and was raised in Needham / Dover Mass. He attended Central CT State University majoring in education. His seminary degree is from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

For the last 20 years he has worked at a Community Mental Health Agency in NE CT and is currently Vice President of Services. He oversees all agency programs including, Domestic Violence, Mental Health Crisis and Counseling, Group Homes, and Youth Prevention

Earl has been in the ministry for 30 years and the last ten have been involved with Intentional Interims. His specialty is vision planning, conflict management, and laying biblical

foundations. He is certified with Interim Ministry Network, a nationally known Interim training /resource group.

"My ministry focus is apologetics; laying a solid foundation for faith. I want to provide a reasoned and intellectually credible answer to questions that people ask in this generation."

Earl has just finished a very successful three year interim ministry at the First Baptist Church of Lebanon. Earl is married to Angie, a vocalist, organist and choir director. They have two children 29 and 23; one is married, with the other to soon follow in October. They also served as foster parents to a severely developmentally disabled man for almost 17 years.

Pastor Earl is looking forward to meeting the church family at First Baptist in Norwich.

July 17, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.

Jim Bober has the heart of a servant. He grew up in the area and happens to be the brother of our own, June Deptulski.

After graduating high school, Jim embarked on a career in healthcare and has been serving developmentally challenged individuals for the better part of the last twenty years. He is the Residential Director at Northeast Placement Services in Woodstock. His service oversees two group homes and 18 individuals scattered throughout eastern Connecticut in a supported living program. This is how he lives out his Christian calling in the workplace.

Jim came to know Christ in 1976 at the age of 16 and got involved with the Harvest Light Christian Center in North Windham. He has since been called to serve as an Elder of the Church and is in the process of seeking ordination through his denomination which is Independent and Pentecostal. Jim also has a longstanding connection with the Connecticut Christian Prison Ministries which has used him to lead Bible studies and counsel inmates at area prisons. Jim is currently receiving training in Police Chaplaincy which is another area of interest for him.

Jim and his wife, Patty, make their home in Woodstock and have four children, Michael, Sarah, Jesse and Rachel, ages eight to seventeen living at home and keeping them busy. We are very pleased that Jim will be with us on July 17.



To the Sabbatical Committee for lining up such wonderful preachers during Dr. Lord's leave.

Sabbatical News

Who Will Fill our Pulpit in 2005

**June 26, 2005 @ 10:30 a.m. &
July 3, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Burt Crooks has been a successful Pastor and American Baptist Leader for the past forty five years. His roots were in southern New Jersey where he was born and raised but as a young man he traveled to Michigan where he earned his Bachelor's Degree from Kalamazoo College. Feeling the call to ministry, he enrolled at Colgate Rochester Divinity School in New York and successfully completed his Master of Divinity Degree. Recognizing his outstanding gifts for ministry, Burt was ordained and soon began his ministry just twenty five minutes from here at the Voluntown Baptist Church. A few years later he accepted the call to the First Baptist/South Congregational Church in New Britain. He served there as the Senior Pastor for the next 24 years.



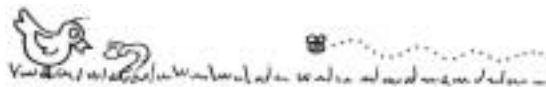
While serving the local churches, Burt also served the region with distinction. He is a former President of ABCCONN and a two term representative to the General Board of ABCUSA, serving a total of eight years on the national scene. He has served as Chairman of ABCCONN's Departments of Christian Outreach, Business & Finance and Commission on the Ministry. He has also served many terms

on the Board of Managers. Today he continues his wider service to the region by volunteering on the Committee on ABCCONN Relationships.

Since his retirement a decade ago, Burt has kept busy. He has served as an interim Pastor for five separate congregations in Connecticut. A few years ago he and his wife, Patti, moved to Uncasville so they could be closer to their two daughters and their families. Rev. Claudine Crooks is the Pastor of the Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church. Her husband is the Rev. Kevin Butler, Director of Camp Wightman. Their daughter, Rebecca, and her husband, Michael Freeman are active members of the Old Mystic Baptist Church. Michael teaches in Stonington and is the treasurer of the Connecticut Education Association. Burt and Patti have 5 grandchildren that they spoil rotten.

We are delighted that Burt is coming.

Join us early and
often this summer



The early bird
catches the worm.

**July 10, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m. &
July 24, 2005 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Rev. Vaughn Foster grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey in. He and his siblings were encouraged to reach for the best and to seek to overcome any obstacles that the world put in their way. His early experiences in church helped mold him and helped him see that God had a special calling for him. In January of 1987, Vaughn accepted the Lord's leading and enrolled at Lincoln University to pursue his Bachelor's Degree. While he was there, he served as the Chaplain's Assistant and led Bible studies and prayer meetings. He graduate in 1991 and went on to Drew University

and received his Master of Divinity Degree in 1994. He is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree at Drew University.

Vaughn served as the Youth Minister at Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Hackensack, NJ while in seminary. He also served as Minister to Lost Sheep for two years following graduation. In 1996, he accepted the call to become the Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Trenton, New Jersey. While he was there, he became involved in regional and national ministries of the denomination, seeking to serve the Lord in the larger community. He also served as a chaplain for the Trenton Area Campus ministries and got involved in leading

young adults into a deeper relationship with the Lord. In January of 2005, Vaughn left Grace Baptist Church to give more time to writing and pursuing God's call to preach as an evangelist in the churches.

Vaughn is the author of two books of poetry, *The Christian Poetry Novel* (1988) and *Poetic Expressions of God's Love* (1993).

Vaughn and Lisa were married in 1991 and they have two children, Vaughn Aaron, Jr. and Elijah Daniel. They are presently house searching in the Ohio, West Virginia area and are waiting on the Lord for their next move. We are very pleased to have Vaughn and his family ministering to us this summer.

Youth Ministry

Come See The Donut Man



Sunday, June 26
at 2:00 p.m.
at Fitch High School

Rob Evans is a top Christian music artist known as the Donut Man

"Life without Jesus is like a donut, cause there's a hole in the middle of your heart."

Featuring the best in Christian music and videos! Songs that teach, & Songs that praise! The Donut Man travels the world doing Christian concerts for kids, and is known for his fun Bible story-songs.

Sign up at Church to register and reserve your ticket.

\$\$\$ Dollars for college \$\$\$

We're in the process of reviewing applications for The Annual FBC Scholarships for college students.

Applications are available at church. Please fill out and return your form by June 12.

We're Going to Six Flags!

We are planning our Annual Trip to Six Flags on Saturday, June 11 at 9:00 a.m. There is a sign up sheet at church. We need to get advance registrations for the best price so call to save your spot today. Cost is \$22.00 per person. Scholarship help is available.



Primary & Junior High School

Pool Party

Sunday, July 10
from noon - 3:00 p.m.



Bring your swim suits,
Bring your enthusiasm,
Bring your selves!



Hosted by Wendy & Jennifer Dart at
51 Green Brier Rd, Norwich

Upcoming Events



Its Tag Sale time!

Saturday, June 4, 9 - 2pm.

Check out our treasures! Tell your friends.

Come help the day of the sale.

Come at 2:00 p.m. and help clean up

The Kitchen Remodeling Project is in the planning stages.

Your input is needed.



Please contact George Rezendes to join this ad hoc design committee.

Celebrate with our Grads and Dads on June 19.

We will set aside a few minutes during our worship service on Sunday, June 19 to recognize our graduates from College. We are very proud of these young people and want to rejoice over their accomplishment. This year's graduates include:

Plainfield High School - Mark Kane
Eastern Connecticut State University - Mandy Guillemette
Eastern University - Timothy Rezendes



Service of Ordination & Installation

Come to a service for Valerie King, held at the United Church of Stonington on June 12 @ 4 pm. Reception in Fellowship Hall. All are invited. *Directions on the bulletin board.*

Blood Drive in Norwich

June 13 or June 29. Please help by giving blood. Call 1-800-448-3543 for an appointment. *See bulletin board for details*

JOIN US FOR A SCRAPING AND PAINTING PARTY

9:00 a.m.

We're looking for you!

On June 25 we will concentrate on scraping the front porches and overhangs and preparing them for painting and staining.

On July 9 we will finish preping and then paint the doors, overhangs and stain the porches.



Wednesday Praise and Prayer will continue through the summer at 7:00 p.m. Come and be refreshed & renewed.



Couples Club Outing in the Sky Box

at the Navigators.

Hold the Date:

Friday, August 19



Can you take a turn mowing the church lawn? Sign up sheet on the board outside the Sanctuary

Nurturing The Family

Excerpts from A Marriage Revolution...

Why Forgive?

...What makes a Christian marriage work is to forgive from our hearts, just as Jesus forgave us. He did so by taking our sins upon himself.

For us, forgiving others means we're willing to live with the consequences of our spouse's sins.

How to forgive:

Okay, we all know we should forgive- after all, that's what Christ commands us to do.

But how exactly do we forgive?

1. Acknowledge the hurt.

The first step is to allow yourself to say, I was hurt/offended when my spouse did/said this. Sometimes we deny the pain. We think, "That hurt didn't matter". Instead of suppression our feelings, we must come to grips with them. Instead of turning from the pain and anger, we must face them.

2. Gently confront.

When a transgression occurs, ask for an explanation. Rather than saying, "You barbarian! You have the sensitivity of gravel. How could you do such a horrid thing to me? Don't you love me?" ask, "When you insulted me, I was surprised. You're usually very sensitive. Can you tell me what was going on?" This is more respectful and will usually keep the door open for genuine dialogue.

3. Pray.

Sometimes recalling a hurt or offense can throw us into a tailspin. So here's what to pray for and about:

- to protect your mind, to

focus on the forgiveness aspect rather than the negative thoughts

- for the Holy Spirit to be your comforter
- for a gift of empathy.

It's difficult to emphasize with a spouse who has hurt us. But we can ask God to work actively within us to help us see things from our spouse's point of view, to help us understand why our mate did or said the things that hurt or bothered us- even if that's against our natural desires.

4. Strive for humility.

When we're wronged, it's easy to feel morally superior. To forgive, though, I need to see myself as not so different from my offender. By recognizing that there have been plenty of times when I've hurt my spouse, sometimes intentionally, I can see, in humility, our similarities. Then I think of the times I've received forgiveness. How many times has God forgiven me? How many times have other people, including my spouse, forgiven me?

5. Start with the easiest offenses.

If one hurt is too difficult to forgive, try forgiving an easier one. Put the hard one aside until later. Try again tomorrow. If you want to forgive but can't, keep practicing. It may take time, but forgiving happens.

6. Choose to reconcile.

Forgiveness can help promote reconciliation, because it softens attitudes. Reconciliation is all about deciding to talk, talking gently in love, empathizing, repairing any hurt feelings (sooner rather than later), and building a sense of loving devotion that both people feel.

7. Anticipate that the wounds will still hurt.

When people have worked through the past to reach forgiveness, they often think (irrationally) that they'll never remember the hurt again. If they do recall the hurt and reexperience pain, they think that their forgiveness was a fraud. Not so. A remembered hurt does not equal unforgiveness.

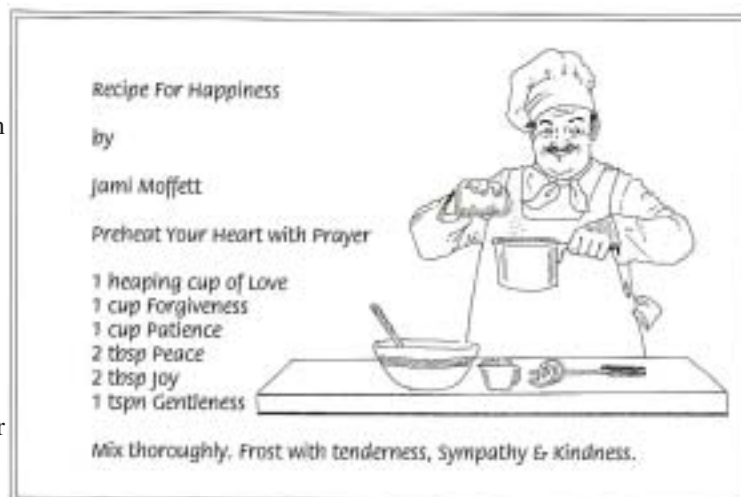
8. Hold on to forgiveness.

Don't dwell on negative emotions when you recall the incident. Remind yourself that you've forgiven the person. We can exert self-control to reach forgiveness. Self-control is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:23), so we don't need to exert it by gut-it-out effort. We can anticipate that God wants to produce self-control in us, so he'll be motivated to help us.

This article appeared in Marriage Partnership in the Spring 2005 edition. Printed with permission. Copyright 2005.

Adapted from Forgiving and Reconciling: Bridges to Wholeness and Hope.

If you would like to subscribe to this magazine, please check with the church office.



Wit and Wisdom

FIRST GRADERS RESPONSE TO LIFE

A first grade teacher had twenty students in her class and she presented each child the first half of a well known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you. While reading these please keep in mind that these are six year old first graders because the last one is classic!

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
 2. Strike while the.....bug is close.
 3. Never underestimate the power of termites.
 4. You can lead a horse to water buthow?
 5. Don't bite the hand that looks dirty.
 6. A miss is as good as a Mr.
 7. You can't teach an old dog new.....math.
 8. If you lie down with dogs, you'll stink in the morning.
 9. Love all, trust me.
 10. The pen is mightier than the pig.
 11. An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.
 12. Happy the bride who.....gets all the presents.
 13. A penny saved is not much.
 14. Two's company, three's the Musketeers.
 15. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you but cry andyou have to blow your nose.
 16. There are none so blind as Stevie Wonder.
 17. Children should be seen and not spanked or grounded.
 18. If at first you don't succeed get new batteries.
 19. When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.
- And the WINNER!
20. Better late thanpregnant.



Why God Made Mothers

Answers given by elementary school age children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

2. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer? Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goofball.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



"I thought you invited me to be a Premises Keeper!"

Wit and Wisdom

BASEBALL at its' BEST!!

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students ... offered a question: "When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?"

The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?"

Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging. Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and, getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the outfield. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands.

In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible 'cause Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher.

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have

been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher took the ball and turned and threw the ball on a high arc to right field, far beyond the reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" By the time Shay rounded

first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head.

Shay ran toward second base as the runners ahead of him deliriously circled the

bases toward home. Shay reached second base, the opposing shortstop ran to him, turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third!" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world."

-from a circulating email



If College Students Wrote The Bible

The Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning — cold.

The Ten Commandments would actually be only five — double-spaced and written in a large font.

A new edition would be published every two years in order to limit reselling.

Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn't cafeteria food.

Paul's letter to the Romans would become Paul's email to buse@romans.gov.

Reason Cain killed Abel: they were room-mates.

Reason why Moses and followers walked in the desert for 40 years: they didn't want to ask directions and look like freshmen.

Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, he would have put it off until the night before to get it done.

The Good Life



Join us at FBC

MONDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS 7 - 8:30
PHONE SANDY: 860-608-4349

Share Your Blessings Thru Our Food Pantry



We have targeted the 2nd Sunday of each month as a time when we can all bring in bottled & canned goods for our Pantry, but contributions can be accepted any day the office is open.

Enjoy a sociable morning helping us fold and label the monthly newsletter. We usually do it during the last week of the month. **New volunteers are needed!!** Please call the office at 889-0369.

Recipes of the Month:

from the *FBC Family Cookbook*

LOW-FAT POTATO SALAD

1 1/2 lbs. small potatoes	1 T. minced fresh parsley
3/4 C. plain yogurt	2 t. tarragon
3 T. white wine vinegar	1/2 medium onion, chopped
1 T. minced fresh dill	1 sm. carrot, shredded

Cook potatoes until tender but firm. Cool & slice. In a large bowl, combine remaining ingred. Add potatoes & stir. Chill for several hrs.
YIELD: 8 SERVINGS. (J. PENDLETON)



CHICKEN SALAD

3 C. cooked chicken	1 t. salt
3 T. lemon juice	1/2 t. dried mustard
1/2 C. toasted, slivered almonds	1 t. curry powder
1 C. pineapple tidbits	1-1/2 C. seedless grapes
1 C. mayonnaise	1/4 C. sliced water chestnuts

Toss together chicken and lemon juice. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. Combine mayonnaise, salt, dry mustard and curry powder in a small bowl. Add remaining ingredients to chicken. Blend mayonnaise mixture into chicken mixture. (J. SEDER)



Book of the Month *Review*

PROPHET, a Novel, by Frank E. Peretti

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

John Barrett, anchorman for "NewsSix at Five," the city's most watched newscast, has a problem. His comfortable, successful world is being jarred to the breaking point. He's caught his producer skewing a story to fit her own prejudices, then lying to cover her tracks - and she appears to be hiding something much bigger. His father's "accidental" death suddenly isn't looking so accidental. Carl, his estranged son, has returned to challenge his integrity and probe to find the man behind the TV image. The supposedly professional and objective newsroom is now divided and fighting over Truth. And what are these mysterious "voices" Barrett is hearing...

Prophet carries...plenty of edge-of-the-seat action, nail-biting suspense, breakneck pacing, and blow-you-out-of-the-water spiritual impact. But more than this, it penetrates to the very heart of a vast struggle that threatens to tear our society to pieces, the struggle over which vision of moral authority will define our nation.

(This book can be borrowed from the Church Office. Please come in and see us.)

Ministry to Families

News from our Church family...

Three of the young men who have been worshipping with us recently competed in the Special Olympics and did quite well. We congratulate them... Bethany Brown enjoyed another successful year as a leader on the Plymouth State College Lacross Team. She earned several team and personal honors. We are so proud of her ... The Allens and the Vanases traveled to New Orleans this spring and had a great time... Mark and Pam Kane, Karen and Ed Barber, Fran and Mark Rogers all traveled to Maine with their families for the wedding of their brother John's oldest daughter, Ruth... Amy Brockway has accepted an internship in California this summer. Our prayers go with her... Chelsey Calkins received a "Citizen of the Year Award" at school and was chosen to go to a Navigators game and receive special recognition. Congratulations... Ray and June Deptulski went to Las Vegas on business and managed to find a little time to relax in the sun... Mark Dunaj and Cal Lord went to a Yankee-Tiger game in the Bronx. Unfortunately the Yankees won 12 -3, but they still had a good time... Jennifer Fraser and Amy Rezendes both graduated from Three Rivers Community College this spring. Jennifer received a certificate in Graphic and Communication Arts and Amy finished with

her Associates Degree in General Studies... Do you remember little Schuyler Keithley? Well she just graduated from Lamar High School High in Grand Prairie, Texas and is quite a young lady... Sarah Lord will be competing in the Connecticut Outstanding Teen Pageant at the Garde Theater later this month. This comes on top of her being elected to serve as Class President for her Senior Year at NFA... Rosie and Les Main, and Brian Goldin traveled to Oklahoma to witness Carol McMillan's college graduation. They had a good trip but were happy to be home... Nancy Oat was off to visit family in Kansas... Randy and Penny Sargent are getting pretty excited as their new house is looking more and more like a home every day. They hope to move in by late summer/early spring... April Rezendes is getting excited about her six week journey to Russia this summer. She leaves in early June...



Schuyler Keithley just graduated from High School.



We think of Michelle Lord and Beverly Duntz, as they both go for surgery this month to remove malignant tumors. We pray for complete success and healing... We think of Bob Buchowiecki as he goes for another test on Friday, June 3 to determine the success of his treatments. He is doing very well so far. Keep praying... We lift up Les Main in our continuing prayers in his battle... Remember Elizabeth Isenburg as she continues to suffer from the effects of Lyme disease... We think of Myra Christensen and Sue Sucholet in continuing prayer... We lift up Jeannine Pestey as she heads into her last trimester and pray that she and the baby make it to term... Curt Brockway will be going into the hospital for surgery later this month. Think of him... We lift up the grandmothers of Mike Staron, Laura Howe and Sean Jones and the grandfather of Cheryl Dutrumble as they go through difficult times... We lift up Adele Cofer in our prayers as her back problems continue... Armin Harris sprained his



shoulder and Dave Mehlinger had a concussion after a collision in the outfield last month. Both are doing much better...

Lift up the families in our congregation in your personal prayers. We all need encouragement to stand strong. We also remember Jean and Steve Roscoe, Edith Robinson, Doris Royce, Doris Regets, Myrtle Henry, Lois Lopez and Ruth White in our prayers...

In Mission

Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut

Did you know that 100% of the funding to build homes comes from the local community from concerned people like us, and without our generosity they simply could not be building homes for families in need?

Money given to Habitat for Humanity is presently making it possible for the group to build the following:

- 1) Davis Farms, a Habitat Community of 6 homes in New London currently underway.
- 2) Colonial Arms, a Habitat Community of 4 homes in Ledyard, currently underway.
- 3) Fitch Avenue, New London, homes to begin mid summer.
- 4) Crescent Street, 1 Habitat home in New London to begin mid summer. ...

A Total of 13 homes in various stages of development!

Because of people like you and me, 13 very-low income mothers and their families in our community will have a home that's safe, warm and affordable. All will purchase the home with a no profit- no interest mortgage from Habitat, after completing 400 hours of sweat equity (labor) working on their home, or the homes of other Habitat families.

We have forever made a difference in their lives. As a church, we budgeted a mere \$150 to this very important work in 2005. But when you add what we gave to the many gifts of other churches, civic organizations and individuals, it goes a long way to do a lot of good.

"My family has been selected to receive a home. Thank you for your contribution. God Bless, Catherine Donahue & Family"

News from our missionaries in Haiti

Dear Loved Ones,

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with each and every one of you. We praise Him daily for His



care. We would like to pray for the Daniel family. Daniel is a school teacher and his wife is a fulltime house wife. They have five children and live in Bel Hotesse area about a ten minute drive from our house. A school teacher can not make ends meet with the money he makes from teaching. That is why many moonlight to help their families survive. Women who work with Kihomi have asked for prayers for the Daniel family. One day, Kihomi went with her women to visit the family. She came back with a broken heart and did not sleep well that night. The oldest boy of the Daniel family would be in his first year of college studies now. Their oldest daughter would be about to finish high school. One day, suddenly, the boy fell and could not get up. Since that time, the boy has been bedridden. Then the daughter, who was healthy and strong, felt sick, also. The two children have pain all over and warts developing in their bodies. The family has seen numerous doctors and visited many hospitals, but, so far, nothing has happened. After two years now, the family is physically, emotionally and financially exhausted. It is only their faith which gives them the will to live.

We would also appreciate prayers for the country. Violence, kidnappings and stealing of vehicles continue. According to Metropole Radio, 228 vehicles were stolen in the month of March 2005 in the capital city of Port-au-Prince. We are all doing fine, and our children scattered around the world are also in very good health.

With gratitude. Yours serving the Lord in Haiti,
Mabudiga, Kihomi and Pambi Nzunga

Capital Campaign Is Under Way for Camp Wightman and Ministries of ABCCONN

We welcomed Tim Bates into our pulpit last month to share a bit about the ABCCONN Capital Campaign for Camp Wightman. We all know what a precious resource Camp Wightman is but Tim lifted up the current project and shared his enthusiasm for what it will mean to future campers.

In order to increase the capacity of the dining hall and create a new space for worship and program, ABCCONN is going through a Capital Campaign to raise \$475,000 to put a major addition of the dining



hall. Many of our young people have enjoyed their experiences at Camp over the years and know how important this project will be. Some of you may be contacted by Tim about a gift. If you do not hear from him, speak to Pastor Lord and he will tell you how to make a pledge or gift to the Campaign.

The Sports Page

Hits, Runs and Wins Mark the First Month of the 2005 Softball Season

Chip Chaffee knocked in six runs with a double and two homeruns as the FBC Softball team opened the season with a 21 - 4 victory over Sacred Heart. No one was surprised that the MVP of 2004 picked up right where he left off. What was surprising was the fact that he had a lot of help on the band wagon. Armin Harris, Dave Moon and Casey Rezendes also homered in that game.

In the second game of the season, Mike Staron hit the first of his team leading 4 home runs and had his first multi hit game. As we enter June he leads the team in batting with a .682 average.

In the third game of the season Fred Green Sr. started

on a tear and collected 4 hits and scored four runs. He never looked back the rest of the month and as we enter June he leads the team in runs, hits, triples and on base percentage.



Fred Green is one of the fastest players we have ever had... and he is 40 + years old.

The team managed to win their first five games with an average of 24 runs a game and each night there was a different hero.

The team batting average is .550 and 13 of the 18 players who have seen action are batting over .500. The team has

averaged 20 runs a game and is 5 - 2.

They could have been 6-1 if it weren't for a collision in right field which knocked two of our hottest hitters, Armin Harris and Dave Mehlinger, out of the game.

Other hot hitters so far include Steve Moon, Brian Goldin and Dave Mehlinger.

The action continues this month. Look for highlights of the games on line at www.fbcnorwich.org



Dave Mehlinger had a slight concussion but he is fine now.

Baptist Bowlers Undergo A Conversion and Become Holy Rollers For Summer 2005

In an effort to expand and grow our bowling league this summer, we invited our sister churches to come and bowl with us. At our inaugural meeting, we had representatives from the First and Taftville Congregational Churches, Norwich Worship Center, Central Baptist and the Montville Center Church.

There are eight teams competing in the new Holy Rollers League and bowlers of every ability. Ken Kreger established a 217 average and newcomers Bill Shaw and Chip Welch had averages of 188 and 182 respectively. Betsey Ward (166), Nancy



Schuster (152) and Lori Lord (149) set the bar for the ladies.

Most of the teams don't have names yet, But Ken Kreger's team won all four and the "three Saints plus One lost all four. Everyone else fell somewhere in between.

We will miss some of our favorite bowlers from seasons past as they decided to take the summer off. Curt and Mary Brockway are going to be traveling this summer. Both were charter members of the group. Adele DiBiagio Cofer is up in the air because of problems with her back. We'll find out next week if

she can make a comeback. Sharon Fishkin is also sitting out this summer to take care of the children. Fred and Sandy Stone are also taking a break, as is Laura Kreger.

Other newcomers this summer include Rev. Mark Pelletier of Taftville Congregational, Eileen Potter of Central Baptist, the Bumpus family from Norwich Worship Center and John Ross and Brian Fage from First Congregational.

If you would like to bowl with us this summer, we are looking for subs to fill in. With the way things look, there could be a spot every week for someone. Please speak to George Rezendes if you are game.

Ministry to Youth

Sharing the Gospel With our Children

Family devotional time was once common.

We may have childhood memories that make us reluctant to spend family time in devotions, but learning and celebrating God as a family is important and can positively impact on the whole of one's life.

Why have a regular time of family devotions, reading the Bible, praying?

The family is the primary teacher of faith. George Barna's research concluded that nearly half of Americans who accepted Jesus Christ do so before age 13, and half of them were led to Christ by their parents.

The Bible says passing on God's Word is the responsibility of parents: "*Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise*". [Deut. 6:6-7 NRSV]

Guidelines for family devotions:

Make it fun!

- Find a time that best fits everyone - maybe just after supper or just before bedtime.
- Keep it short.
- Approach your time together with humor & enthusiasm.

Make it interactive.

- Encourage comments and questions about the Scripture and your beliefs.
- Ask them to participate in the planning.

Keep it at their level.

- Begin with scriptures they can relate to.
- Children love stories, so bring those out - even tell them and make them relevant and exciting.



**CAMP
WIGHTMAN**
Now you can
register online!

(www.campwightman.org)



If you would like to go but don't have the means, please speak to Kay Lautzenheiser (535-1395). We would like everyone that wants to go, to have the opportunity.



SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

• John 6:1-14. Jesus feeding the multitude. Have a discussion about sharing.

• Psalm 8:3-9 or Psalm 19:1-4. Look at the stars together and encourage discussion.

• Use Luke 19:1-10 to look at being short or selfish.

• Luke 17:11-19 brings up the question of gratitude.

• Sports enthusiast might enjoy hearing I Corinthians 9:24-26.

• Use an experience in nature to bring focus to the Creator aspect of God. Read Genesis 1 or parts of Psalm 104.

• Attitudes about doing chores can be compared in Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-2.

• Pick your favorite passages and share what you love about them.

• Ask your child to tell you about the parts of the Bible they know.

A Powerful Witness...

God's Middle Man

Red Sox hurler Mike Timlin is the best middle reliever in the game—because he keeps God in the center of everything.

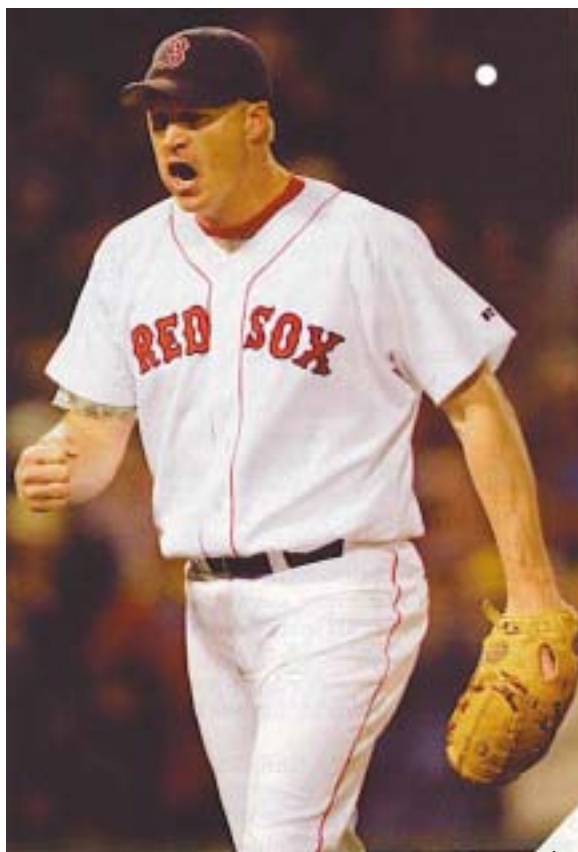
In 14 years as a major league pitcher, Mike Timlin has recorded 56 wins and 59 losses and a respectable 3.61 earned run average. He's never appeared in the All-Star Game and won't likely end his career with Hall of Fame numbers. Instead, Timlin has simply been one of the most solid middle relievers to take to the mound in recent years.

But Timlin does have something that many of today's baseball players—star athletes such as Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa and Albert Pujols included—can't yet claim. Timlin has a World Series ring. Actually, he has three. But who's counting?

Most will remember Timlin's recent role on the heralded 2004 World Series Champion Boston Red Sox. His team made history by erasing a 3-0 deficit in the American League Championship Series (ALCS) against the New York Yankees and eradicated the so-called "Curse of the Bambino" with a 4-0 sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals. It was Boston's first World Series title in 86 years.

Timlin himself was a vital part of the effort seeing action in 11 of the team's 14 post-season games. Besides closer Keith Foulke, Timlin visited the mound more than any of his pitching counterparts. In fact, Boston was 9-1 in games in which the right-handed Midland, Texas, native appeared.

Timlin is no stranger to the post-season. He's been there eight times now including six combined visits to the National and American League Championships. In Timlin's first three



years alone, he helped the Toronto Blue Jays reach the ALCS three times and the World Series twice. It was during the 1992 and 1993 season when he earned his other two title rings.

In 1997, Timlin was traded to Seattle. Tabbed a "playoff pitcher," he spent the next seven seasons playing with five different teams including Seattle, Baltimore, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Boston. After a solid outing with the Red Sox in 2003, Timlin once again was a major contributor last season. He went 5-4 in a team-leading 76 pitching appearances.

But 2004 was all about the playoffs and one of the most compelling moments took place in Game 2 of the

World Series when Boston's starting pitcher, Curt Schilling (who is also a Christian) fought through a nagging ankle injury. His right sock was blood-soaked from fresh sutures that patched a torn tendon. Timlin himself played a key role in the game when he pitched two-thirds of an inning to set up Keith Foulke's save. Boston won the contest, 6-2.

Timlin takes both his faith and his job seriously. He is actively involved in Baseball Chapel, which holds Bible studies throughout the season, and uses the ministry to share his faith with teammates.

He believes that his effort should come from a desire to please God first as Paul admonishes in Colossians 3:23, Timlin's favorite Bible verse. While he says that his faith doesn't help him bounce back from adversity any faster, he does see clear advantages to placing Christ right in the middle of his baseball career and his family that consists of wife Dawn, son Jake (age eight) and daughter Mykala (age four).

"I know that God is out there with me all the time," Timlin says. "Win or lose, He's still going to pat me on the back. My kids are still going to love me. That's where I get to see God's face most of the time, in my kids. I can give up the game-winning three-run home run and I can come off the field and I can be dejected and I can have a broken heart and feel like the worst guy in the world and they still run up to hug me. That's what God does. He's still going to run up and hug me no matter what."

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All Church Picnic at Fort Shantock Marks End Of A Great Year of Sunday School

When the decision was made to finish up the year in May, The Sunday School was not sure where it would hold the annual picnic. Mohegan Park does not allow groups to reserve the Pavillion before Memorial Day. Jeannine Pestey suggested Fort Shantock and it was perfect.

About forty people gathered on an overcast day to enjoy fellowship and great picnic food in the lightly wooded picnic area. The kids had a great time on the playground as they waited for the food to be set out and ready. After lunch, Brian Goldin and Kay Lautzenheiser led the kids through a series of games in the big open field. Then it was on to the pinata where everyone got to take a whack at it before the candy came spilling out. It turned out to be a beautiful day. There are more pictures on the church web site @ www.fbcnorwich.org



David & Cindy Briggs and their kids, Laura Kreger and her boys join the Mehlinger boys in a perfect spot to eat lunch.

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Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Mid Week Worship & Prayer Service
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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Adele DiBiagio Cofer,
Organist & Choir Director
Sandy Callender, Administrative Assistant
Harry & Doris Calkins are the Production Assistants.